

Applicant: Hayao Yamaura
Appl. No.: 10/768,714

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 2-6 are currently pending. New dependent claim 6 has been added. Support for claim 6 is found, for example, in Figs. 1 and 2 of the specification. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,490,923 to Sasgen (hereinafter “Sasgen”). Claim 5 is the sole independent claim. The Applicant traverses this rejection for at least two reasons.

First, Sasgen does not disclose “a clamp lever body comprising third and fourth arms defining an opening,” as recited by claim 5. The Office Action aligns the operating lever 61 of Sasgen with the claimed “clamp lever body.” However, the operating lever 61 of Sasgen does not comprise “third and fourth arms defining an opening.” Rather, referring to the elevational view of Fig. 1, and the edge view of Fig. 2, the operating lever 61 of Sasgen is a single-armed object devoid of any openings. Therefore, Sasgen does not disclose “a clamp lever body comprising third and fourth arms defining an opening.”

Second, Sasgen does not disclose that an “opening in the clamp lever body is engaged by the outer shoulder cam surface on the first clamp arm,” as recited by claim 5. As demonstrated

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above, the operating lever 61 of Sasgen does not have an opening. Therefore, it follows that Sasgen does not disclose that an “opening in the clamp lever body is engaged by the outer shoulder cam surface on the first clamp arm.”

For at least the above two reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 5 is patentable over Sasgen. Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 5, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Steve Schwarz

Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D.
Registration No. 41,289
Steven J. Schwarz
Registration No. 47,070
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4000
Direct Dial: (202) 344-4295
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

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